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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

(5)

8 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

The location of the front lines changed little during the past twenty-four hours as the Northern Korean forces again paused to mass troops and armor in forward areas. The principal enemy concentration continued to be along the Pyongtaek-Ansong front, but a build-up of armor and troops in the Wonju area has been observed, possibly in preparation for a wide envelopment aimed at the main line of US and ROK communications in the Taejon area.

Continued pressure by the Northern Korean 1st and 3rd Divisions and the threat of envelopment forced elements of the US 24th Division to retire to Chonan after an initial penetration of approximately ten miles north of Chonan. The ROK I Corps was not in contact with the enemy, but the 8th ROK Division is reported to have re-occupied Chechon and elements of the ROK 6th Division were in contact with the enemy in the Chungju area.

Thirteen Northern Korean tanks were destroyed and ten were damaged by US air and ground forces. A bridge on the main east coast rail line north of Wonsan and a highway bridge in enemy occupied territory just south of the 38th Parallel on the east coast were destroyed by US air action. Enemy-occupied installations and roads on the east coast in the Yangyang-Samchok area suffered undetermined damage from bombardment by a combined US and British naval task group.

II. Political Stability.

State

Ambassador Muocio advises that he is suggesting to President Rhee that he remain in Pusan for the time being in view of the continuing fluidity of the situation north of Taejon. Unofficial reports indicate that persons in Seoul formerly employed by Americans,

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families of Republican soldiers and large numbers of police have been killed by the Communists in the captured capitol and their bodies displayed as a warning. There continues to be surprisingly little guerrilla activity in South Korean areas and only a few individual guerrillas had been apprehended as of 7 July. The Communist psychological campaign to demonstrate that the "liberation" is meeting with wide popular response was marked by radio Peiping's broadcast of a joint statement allegedly issued by a former Minister of Interior and a Vice Minister of Security under the US occupation calling for the unity and independence of the Korean people.

R. B. HILLENKOTTER  
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